

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed January 8, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 14, 2006; and November 15, 2006.

A further Information Disclosure Statement was filed February 11, 2009 (received by OIPE February 17, 2009), and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-3 are independent. Claims 1-3 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-4 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,527 to Janky and U.S. Publication No. 2001/0031624 to Schmutz. The Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2143.01, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some reason, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some reason to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the

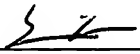
combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art.” In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims, as amended. The present invention is believed to be unique in adopting an arrangement by which an FDMA wireless terminal can communicate directly via a repeater relay station (without involving an FDMA relay station) with a repeater wireless terminal. Independent claims 1-3 have been amended to recite that a frequency division multiple access (FDMA) wireless terminal operates to detect on the basis of a received control signal that a call signal is from a repeater wireless terminal and a downlink frequency f_2 of a repeater relay station so that the FDMA wireless terminal switches its own reception frequency from a downlink frequency f_3 of an FDMA relay station to the downlink frequency f_2 of the repeater relay station. The Applicant respectfully submits that Janky and Schmutz, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

Since Janky and Schmutz do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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